

# Upcounty Annual Report

## Fiscal Year 2019

(July 2018 – June 2019)



# Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich



## Montgomery County Council



Nancy Navarro  
President, District 4



Sidney Katz  
Vice-President, District 3



Andrew Friedson  
District 1



Craig Rice  
District 2



Tom Hucker  
District 5



Will Jawando  
At-Large



Gabe Albornoz  
At-Large



Evan Glass  
At-Large



Hans Riemer  
At-Large

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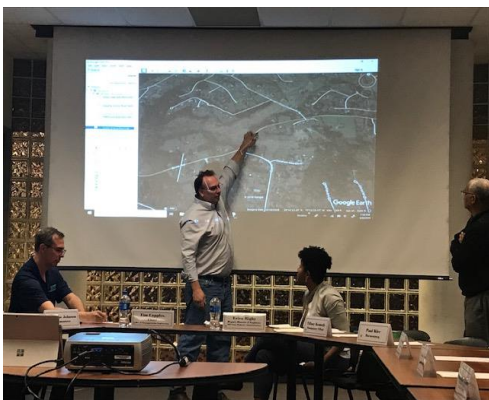
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*Upcounty Citizens  
Advisory Board*





## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, 2018-2019**

As Chair of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board, it has been an honor and a privilege to serve and represent the citizens of this region of the county. The Advisory Board provides the community with a forum to discuss issues and concerns that affect their daily decisions and quality of life.

The year started with the addition of seven new members. The interview committee spent many hours interviewing 20 applicants and creating a list of potential nominations for the Executives consideration. The nomination list reflected the Upcounty community and brought a rich diversity of experience to the board. The members of the Advisory Board represent various communities and constituencies within the Upcounty region, provide the community with timely, relevant and factual information and make informed recommendations to the County Executive and to the County Council.

Our discussions were wide ranging, yet many topics built off information presented in previous meetings. At each meeting the Board received updates from representatives from the County Council informing us about issues that were before the Council and any actions taken. The board also received updates from the Upcounty Regional Director on issues and actions relative to the Upcounty. We also receive updates from representatives from the 1st, 5th, and 6th police districts on important law enforcement issues and activities effecting the community.

In September, the board had a discussion on the Rustic Roads Program, we heard how and why it was initiated, and how it is maintained. This topic was initiated by concerns expressed by residents in Dickerson regarding maintenance / improvements to Martinsburg Road. Most of the Rustic Roads are within the Agricultural Reserve and as such, the topic was of specific concern to the residents of the Upcounty since many of the roads we live and drive on are on the list of Rustic Roads and are uniquely affected by their designation and associated maintenance.

October brought a discussion of the Agricultural Reserve, what it is, and where is it going. Representatives from the Office of Agricultural Services, the Montgomery Countryside Alliance, Visit Montgomery, and the Montgomery County Planning Department informed us of the plans and opportunities for the Agricultural Reserve and entertained questions and ideas from the members of the board and attending community members.

In November, in preparation for the General Assembly, we had a pre-session discussion with our State Legislators on proposed legislation that would have specific impact to the residents of the Upcounty. Senator Cheryl Kagan attended as well as Delegates Anne Kaiser, Kathleen Dumais, David Fraser-Hidalgo and Delegates-Elect Lily Qi and Gabriel Acevero.

December had two topics brought before the board. First was a discussion on preparing for the Census 2020, where Mr. Daniel Jones from the US Census Bureau presented an overview of the census process, its challenges, and the benefits of having an accurate count. The board also heard from Mr. Seth Adams, Director of MCPS' Construction Division where the discussion revolved around the current status of schools, how to meet school enrollment projections, and the expected challenges that will need to be met.

In January, we met with County Council Vice-President Sidney Katz. Councilmember Katz discussed the current business climate in the County and opportunities for the future.

February was a discussion on lessons learned from the Amazon HQ2 decision. Tina Benjamin, Special Projects Coordinator in the Office of the County Executive, and Francine Waters, former Sr. Managing Director for Transportation/Smart Growth with Lerner Enterprises, provided a general overview of the Amazon site selection

process. Of particular interest to members of the Board was how the effort to attract Amazon to the County can be applied to attract other large and small employers to the County.

In March, the board heard from representatives from Governor Hogan's P3 Office who provided an overview and status update on the State's initiative called the "I-495 & I-270 Managed Lanes Study" which is planned to improve traffic flow on I-270 and I-495. They announced that community workshops would be held throughout the State however only one was planned in Montgomery County. We hope that, in addition to Councilmembers' requests, our advocacy helped to convince the State to hold an additional workshop specifically in the Upcounty region.

In April, the Board returned to the topic of the upcoming census. The Board had a discussion on Census 2020 and Hard-to-Count Communities." Representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau and the County's Office of Community Partnerships briefed the board on actions taken thus far to prepare the county. Each Regional Director will chair a subcommittee of Montgomery County's Complete Count Committee with the purpose of providing more outreach in neighborhoods and with hard-to-count populations.

Finally, in May, the Board had a discussion on the Racial Equity & Social Justice Initiative in Montgomery County. Lynn Arndt, an Upcounty Resident Coordinator, and Dana Pauley of Leadership Montgomery led the discussion. Through their efforts and that of Upcounty Regional Director Catherine Matthews, an official kick-off of the initiative will be held on June 26 in Germantown to engage Upcounty residents and businesses.

It has been a pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Upcounty Citizen Advisory Board. As always, Ms. Matthews and her staff member, Linda Cooper, were invaluable assets to the Board. I want to thank the Board's Vice Chairs, Tobi Printz-Platnick and Linda Moore, for the knowledge, intuition and guidance they provided, as well as Quality of Life Chair Hassan Dixon and Land Use Chair William Roberts for their time and leadership. I also would like to thank the full Board for their dedication to the community and to the duties of the board, and for the patience they exhibited while allowing me to serve as Chair.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Kraig Walsleben', written in a cursive style.

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair

## About the Board

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/upcounty)

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) provides advice and recommendations to the County Executive, County Council, and Upcounty Regional Director on issues affecting the northern portion of the county known as the "Upcounty" or "North County" in addition to acting as a two-way communication link between the County and the community. The twenty volunteer members of UCAB are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council.

**Geographic Scope** The Upcounty region is defined as being roughly north and west of Shady Grove Road and it comprises about one-half of the geographic area of Montgomery County and one-third of its population. It ranges in character from urban to rural in communities such as Barnesville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac and Poolesville. Therefore, UCAB's members are selected for geographic balance as well as for diversity of background, community and professional experience and expertise.

**Structure** UCAB operates in public meetings and has two standing committees: the Land Use Committee and the Quality of Life Committee. UCAB's leadership consists of the chairperson, a first vice-chair, and a second vice-chair along with the chair of the Land Use Committee and chair of the Quality of Life Committee. Other UCAB members also provide liaison to various other County boards and committees.

**Issues** Usually after a planning retreat in July, the UCAB and each of its committees meets generally every month from September through June. The full board convenes in July for a planning retreat. The UCAB's committees study a wide variety of issues and help to craft the board's resulting recommendations. The Land Use Committee has reviewed and commented on master planning practices in the Upcounty, issues related to urbanization, the County's Growth Policy, development pressures on the Agricultural Reserve, the evolution of the Life Sciences Center at Shady Grove, issues faced by agricultural and related businesses, affordable housing, and growth of the Germantown Campus of Montgomery College. The Quality of Life Committee has reviewed and commented on out-of-school programs for youths, programs for immigrant families and children at risk, mental health services, library services, safety of young drivers and pedestrians, public safety, services for seniors, and the general health of the county's community. Comments have been offered on many of these issues while others may continue to be examined for future comment or recommendation.

**Recommendations** During the year, UCAB interacts formally and informally with county officials, county and state agency staff, and community leaders in order to understand issues comprehensively before forwarding comments or recommendations to the County Executive and/or County Council. UCAB also meets with the Executive during the year to discuss Upcounty priorities and to summarize their work at their annual meeting, and traditionally, the Executive's priorities for both the operating budget and the Capital Improvements Program (CIP) have been responsive to UCAB's recommendations. In the past, the Board has also hosted receptions for officials and community leaders in order to promote networking and the sharing of ideas. On an annual basis, the board meets with State legislators who represent the Upcounty area in the General Assembly, and various county department heads to explore issues and solutions. Additionally, UCAB traditionally hosts the County Executive's annual Capital and Operating budget forums to solicit community comments. Those comments are then prioritized by the board and forwarded to Executive Branch departments and the County Executive.

The Director of the Upcounty Regional Office, Catherine Matthews, can be contacted at 240.777.8040 or via email at [catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:catherine.matthews@montgomerycountymd.gov).

# *Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board*

## *2018-2019*



*Left to right sitting: Arthur Edwards (Laytonsville/Goshen); Alan Young (Gaithersburg); Tiffany Kennedy (Montgomery Village); Tanya Sun (Clarksburg); Christopher O'Brien (Gaithersburg).*

*Left to right standing: Paul Klee (Darnestown); Hassan Dixon (Germantown); Linda Moore (Montgomery Village); Wayne Jacas (Boys/Clarksburg); Kraig Walsleben (Damascus); Revonne Johnson (Germantown); Cheng Tu (Shady Grove/N. Potomac); Andrew Dibonge (Clarksburg); Robert Bartlett (Germantown)*

*Not available when photo was taken:*



*Dennis Barnes  
(Montgomery Village)*



*Florence Messi  
(Damascus/Gaithersburg)*



*Tobi Printz-Platnick  
(Boys/Germantown)*



*William Roberts  
(Gaithersburg)*



## *Officers*

**Chair** – Kraig Walsleben

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Chair** – Tobi Printz-Platnick

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chair** – Linda Moore

## *UCAB Committee Chairs*

**Land Use Committee** – William Roberts

**Quality of Life Committee** – Hassan Dixon

## *Liaisons to Other Boards and Committees*

**Airpark Liaison Committee** – Alan Young

**Dickerson Facilities Implementation Group** – Kraig Walsleben

**Permitting Services Advisory Committee** – Arthur Edmunds

**Shady Grove Implementation Advisory Committee** – Cheng Tu

**Smart Growth Initiative Implementation Advisory Group** – (Vacant)

**Speed Camera Advisory Committee** – (Vacant)

**PEPCO Community Advisory Group** – (Vacant)

# *Issues and Comments*

# Year in Summary

## 2018-2019

The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) hosted presentations and discussions of general interest to the northern county community that included early childhood education, economic development, the affordability of housing, transportation planning and traffic congestion solutions, possibilities for the Agricultural Reserve, and inequities across our schools.

Parts of the Upcounty (or North County) are now in a redevelopment phase while yet other areas in this part of the county are experiencing activity to develop the last of untouched land. The Agricultural Reserve is still regarded as an important asset for the county for economic and “quality of life” reasons. Our population is noted as being one of the most diverse in the nation with economic opportunities being created by an increasing number of small businesses, yet officials are challenged by trends such as the increasing violence in schools, the growing need for affordable housing, and issues facing disengaged youths.

In order to be balanced thinkers and solution-finders, UCAB engaged subject matter experts to help us better understand the context, factors, and potential impacts of the issues we face and may face in the near future. While issues, challenges and opportunities were discussed in full board meetings, our Quality of Life Committee and our Land Use Committee explored several of them further with the intent of identifying stakeholders, resources and possible solutions that we could share with the County Executive. Here are highlights from this year’s discussions held with elected officials, government agency staff, and community leaders. Comments or recommendations noted in **bold** text were stated in our budget testimony or offered to the County Executive and/or County Council for their consideration.

### Quality of Life Committee

#### *Early Childhood Education & Development*

- With the achievement gap issues evident throughout Montgomery County Public Schools, the Quality of Life Committee focused on how children not receiving quality education in their early stages of life can be impaired for years to come. The committee engaged representatives from Montgomery County Public Schools and the Department of Health and Human Services to see where deficiencies were in programming.
- The Committee learned that there are a series of public & private partnerships leading to an increase in early childhood programs throughout the county.
- Around the county, a few schools have programs already, however, the children are only able to start at 4 years of age.
- The committee brainstormed ways to bring more early childhood educational programs into fruition and where they could be located. The committee suggested apartment buildings and other assets with space around the county that could be used to teach young children.
- **The committee concluded that a lack of funding and probably unidentified appropriate spaces are the main issues surrounding the lack of early childhood programs available to all of the public. More nonprofits and other private entities will have to come together to help push for more early childhood education and development options. The next step is to work with schools, apartment complexes, and owners of other buildings to find the space needed to house the programs.**

#### *Inequities Across Montgomery County Public Schools*

- The Committee felt the need to explore what was being done throughout the county to help identify and address inequities across the schools within Montgomery County.
- The growing diversity within MCPS has led to more children with issues the County is not familiar with. Different groups around the county have organized to help mitigate these new issues.

- Thrive Germantown has been working on solving these growing issues in one Upcounty community. The program focuses on how to improve the health of the community by addressing the social determinants of health, healthy food access, safety, stable housing, and the impact of adverse childhood experiences.
- **The committee believes in the efforts of Thrive Germantown and advocates for the creation of more similar entities around the entire County.**

## Land Use Committee

### *Transportation Planning*

- The Committee felt the need to reposition our annual discussion of upcounty transportation needs to one centered on mobility to answer the question: how are we ensuring that people can move around the Upcounty and broader county efficiently by whatever means they chose be they 1) on foot or on a bike, 2) on mass transit, 3) driving on a state or county road. The Committee engaged in a multi-month “Mobility Series” to take a deep dive on these issues.
- The Committee examined the Montgomery County Bike Master Plan and the Vision Zero program designed to reduce pedestrian injuries and fatalities. **The Committee supports the county’s efforts to encourage and enhance bike use on county roads and trails.** We also received briefings on ways in which the Department of Transportation is rethinking their philosophy on protecting pedestrians to focus more on these issues and examine what tools are at their disposal including traffic calming measures, mid-block crossings, non-traversable medians, and more. **The Committee also encouraged DOT to improve the county’s planning and coordination with developers earlier in the development process.**
- The Committee engaged in a thorough discussion of upcounty transit services. **We support the county’s dedication to multimodal transit connectivity - including last mile transit services.** The Committee learned that Ride On usage is increasing in our area and across the county. Additionally, the county has announced plans for a year-long pilot of an app-based on-demand bus service in a three-mile radius of the Rockville, Wheaton, and Glenmont Metrorail stations that will use smaller Ride On shuttles. Ride On Extra, which connects riders on an express bus line between the Lakeforest Transit Center and Medical Center, has been a huge success and connects about 2,000 riders per day - thirty percent of whom are new to transit. The Committee raised community concerns related to service on several bus routes across the upcounty - including the Route 75 bus that previously extended service to Frederick, MD. The Committee also examined issues related to MARC service and parking at the Germantown and Boyds MARC stations. **The Committee encouraged the full board to send a letter to the County Executive urging: 1) the extension of Ride On Extra service to the Germantown Transit Center to better serve the needs of upcounty commuters; 2) a reexamination of the Route 75 bus extending to Frederick to alleviate some regional transportation needs; and 3) the prioritization of the Upcounty in future decisions on transit pilot projects. The Committee expressed its support for bus service to the Boyds MARC station to better connect commuters and its long-term support for increased MARC service overall.**
- The Committee met with state and county officials to examine upcounty road projects under construction and in the design phase. The projects include a mix of bike paths, road extensions/improvements and other facility improvements. Issues related to I-270 and Gov. Hogan’s expansion plan were discussed at the full board level.

### *Land Utilization*

- The Committee felt the need to prioritize matters related to our Agricultural Reserve. We see our Ag Reserve as a cultural and economic powerhouse that makes the Upcounty truly unique.
- **The Committee applauded the county’s efforts in developing the Poolesville Economic Development Project also known as the Custom Crush Facility because it supports agriculture in the form of commercial production for our local burgeoning wine grape growers, it supports education and**



**workforce development in the wine and spirits as well as biomedical fields, and it supports economic development in supporting a growing wine making industry in Montgomery County that may one day rival our neighbors.**

- The Committee also heard from Councilmember Craig Rice (D-Upcounty) and stakeholders from communities in the Ag Reserve on issues like the zoning text amendment on Farm Alcohol production and examined responsible ways to expand Agritourism and Agriculture Education in our area. These issues will continue to be a priority.
- **The Committee supports Visit Montgomery's work to research the target audiences for short-to-medium trips into the Upcounty via an agritourism advertising message testing program in various out-of-state jurisdictions.**

#### *Economic Development*

- **Economic development issues have been interspersed throughout the Land Use Committee's agenda throughout the year because all of the issue topics covered impact economic development. These issues will continue to be at the forefront of the Committee's agenda.**
- Specifically, the Committee began to investigate ways to keep the Germantown Town Center viable and vibrant. Committee members looked into what ingredients make a successful commercial district sustainable. Some factors we identified include areas that are open and inviting, pedestrian and family friendly, where desirable food and drink options are provided, that lend to visitors coming for "the experience". The committee believes that the new Top Golf property in Germantown can anchor a reimagined town center that is a vibrant commercial hub. The committee will continue to work with the county to look for ways to attract our aging population, as well as young families of differing income levels, to commercial spaces. The Committee intends to continue this work and lean on experience of those involved in the redevelopment of Downtown Silver Spring and other commercial hubs across the county.
- In the future, the committee will discuss how the Enterprise Zone and Opportunity Zone programs could help the upcounty.

#### **Joint Meeting of Both Committees**

##### *Housing Affordability*

- Recognizing that the Upcounty is Montgomery County's fastest growing region, the Quality of Life Committee wanted to be sure to focus on housing and rental trends in our area - particularly as affordable housing remains a key issue.
- The Committee learned that the rental housing stock in Germantown is on average 20 years old or older, while new stock is coming online as Clarksburg continues to build out. The county's Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program serves families of modest means by ensuring that below-market units are available in market-rate developments. The program mandates that between 12-15% of units in a market rate development should be set aside. **The MPDU program, in addition to county rental assistance programs, are oversubscribed and the increasing need for affordable housing as our area grows will remain a priority.**
- The Committee also examined the issue of workforce housing - housing for residents of moderate incomes who still experience difficulty in finding affordable housing that is within their means and that is close to employment centers. We learned that workforce housing has been difficult to administer and make work Upcounty because of zoning issues and the need for a more comprehensive strategy. Workforce housing is also hard to develop due to different monetary restraints that come with the affordability factor of the housing. The cost to build is the same with more lucrative market rate projects. The committee thought of different incentives the county or the state could provide to developers to help expand the affordable housing mission. Some other strategies that the committee will investigate in the future are: single family rehab programs, tax

incentives for developers, employer-assisted housing programs, and neighborhood development programs that work with HOAs and Code Enforcement staff to help rehab neighborhoods without pushing out existing residents.

- The committee concluded that mixed income projects will help to move this affordable housing issue forward. Mixing affordable and market rate units will help to fix the main issues developers in the county have with affordable projects and will also bring people from all economic situations together in one cohesive area.

## **2018-2019 UCAB Guest Speakers**

### **Full Board Meetings**

July 16, 2018

#### **Board Planning Retreat**

September 17, 2018

#### **Discussion: "Rustic Road Program"**

*Guests: Al Roshdieh, Director, Dept. of Transportation; Atiq Panjshiri, Dept. of Permitting Services; Leslie Saville, Planning Dept.; Bob Tworkowski, Rustic Roads Advisory Committee*

October 22, 2018

#### **Discussion: "The Agricultural Reserve, Today and Tomorrow"**

*Guests: Jeremy Criss, Director, Office of Agricultural Services, Montgomery County  
Caroline Taylor, Executive Director, Montgomery Countryside Alliance  
Kelly Groff, President & CEO, Visit Montgomery; Fred Boyd, Supervisor of Area Master Plans, Montgomery County Planning Department*

November 26, 2018

#### **Discussion: Conversation with State Legislators**

*Guests (Invited): Legislators from Districts 14, 15, 17 and 39*

December 17, 2018

#### **Discussion: "Preparing for Census 2020"**

*Guest: Daniel Jones, U.S. Census Bureau*

January 28, 2019

#### **Discussion: Conversation with County Councilmember Sidney Katz**

February 25, 2019

#### **Discussion: "Lessons Learned from the Amazon HQ2 Decision"**

*Guests: Tina Benjamin, Manager of Special Projects, Office of the County Executive  
Francine Waters, Former Sr. Managing Director, Transportation/Smart Growth, Lerner Enterprises*

March 18, 2019

#### **Discussion: "State's I-270/495 P3 Project"**

*Guests: Lisa Choplin, Director, State Highway Administration; Jeffrey Folden, Deputy Director, State Highway Administration; and Caryn Brookman, Environmental Program Manager*

April 29, 2019

#### **Discussion: "Site Suitability Study for Dog Parks in Montgomery County"**

*Guest: Susanne Paul, Planning Department*

#### **Discussion: "Census 2020 and Hard to Count Communities"**

*Guests: Alvenia McQueen, Partnership Specialist, Census Bureau; Shawn Ellis, Census Coordinator, Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships; Jennifer Mata, Office of Community Partnerships*

May 20, 2019

#### **Discussion: "Racial Equity and Social Justice Initiative in Montgomery County"**

*Guests: Lynn Arndt, Community Coordinator; Dana Pauley, Leadership Montgomery*

June 17, 2019

#### **Board Annual Meeting and Reception**

### **Committee Meetings**

October 1, 2018

#### **Discussion: Presentation on the Planned Grape Crush Facility in Poolesville**

*Guest: Keith Miller, Montgomery County Revenue Authority*

October 9, 2018	<p><b>Discussion: “Small Telecommunication Antennas &amp; a Draft Zoning Text Amendment to Address Neighborhood Concerns”</b>  <i>Guest: Mitsuko Herrera, ultraMontgomery Project Director, Dept. of Technology Services</i></p>
November 19, 2018	<p><b>Joint Land Use/ Quality of Life Committee Meeting</b>  <b>Discussion: Affordable Housing</b>  <i>Guest: Stephanie Killian, Chief of Housing, Dept. of Housing &amp; Community Affairs</i></p>
December 3, 2018	<b>Cancelled</b>
December 18, 2018	<p><b>Discussion: “Reponses to Opioid Use in the County”</b>  <i>Guests: Dept. of Health &amp; Human Services; MC Police Dept.; Fire &amp; Rescue Services</i></p>
January 31, 2019	<p><b>Joint Land Use/Quality of Life Committee Meeting</b>  <b>FY20 Budget Public Forum with County Executive Elrich at BlackRock Center for the Arts</b></p>
February 4, 2019	<p><b>Discussion: Pedestrian Safety in the Upcounty</b>  <i>Guest: Michael Paylor, Department of Transportation</i></p>
February 12, 2019	<p><b>Discussion: “Thoughts from Upcounty Chambers of Commerce”</b>  <i>Guests: Marilyn Balcombe, President/CEO, Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce; Ann Meyer, President, Clarksburg Chamber of Commerce; Gail Lee, President, Poolesville Area Chamber of Commerce</i></p>
March 4, 2019	<p><b>Discussion: Transit Services</b>  <i>Guest: Dan Hibbert, Chief of Transit Services/Dept. of Transportation</i></p>
March 12, 2019	<p><b>Discussion: “Update on the Bus Rapid Transit Initiative”</b>  <i>Guest: Corey Pitts, Planning Section Manager, Dept. of Transportation</i></p> <p><b>Discussion: “County Effort on Clean &amp; Renewable Energy”</b>  <i>Guest: Stan Edwards, Chief of Policy &amp; Compliance, Dept. of Environmental Protection</i></p>
April 8, 2019	<p><b>Discussion: “Upcounty Road Projects”</b>  <i>Guests: Tim Cupples, Chief, Division of Transportation Engineering, Mont. Co. Dept. of Transportation; Erica Rigby, Deputy District Three Engineer, MD State Highway Administration</i></p>
April 16, 2019	<p><b>Discussion: “Safety &amp; Security in Schools”</b>  <i>Guests: Robert Hellmuth, Director, Department of Safety and Security, MCPS  Cmdr. David Anderson (1<sup>st</sup> District Police), Cmdr. Dinesh Patil (6<sup>th</sup> District Police), Lt. Amy Daum for Cmdr. Mark Plazinski (5<sup>th</sup> District Police)</i></p>
May 6, 2019	<b>Discussion: “Opportunity Zones and Enterprise Zones”</b>
May 13, 2019	<b>Cancelled</b>
May 14, 2019	<p><b>Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board CIP Budget Forum with CE Elrich BlackRock Center for the Arts</b></p>
June 3, 2019	<b>Discussion: “What Makes a Commercial Hub Successful?”</b>
June 11, 2019	<b>Attended “4Business Listening Session” hosted by County Executive Elrich and Council Vice-President Katz</b>



# *Testimonies and Correspondence*



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich:

Last spring, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) held meetings with Dr. Jack Smith, the Montgomery County Public Schools' Superintendent, and representatives from the Montgomery County Police Department. Board members expressed concern and asked questions about student safety in light of the recent trend of school shootings. In particular, the conversation focused on how similar incidents could be prevented.

UCAB suggested to the MCPS Superintendent that input from the County Police Department's Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Program (CPTED) should be considered in school construction designs and renovation plans. **UCAB recommends that all design teams working on MCPS projects follow CPTED principals and coordinate with law enforcement representatives. UCAB also recommends that the Office of the County Executive and the County Council support the request made by the MCPS Superintendent, in a supplemental budget request, for an additional \$25 million dollars to be used for security upgrades throughout the MCPS system.** These recommendations will help to ensure that MCPS students are in safe environments where they can focus on their academics and thrive.

We hope that you support this recommendation. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty.

Sincerely,

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair

cc: Nancy Navarro, County Council



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich:

On October 1, 2018, the Land Use Committee of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) met with Keith Miller of the Montgomery County Revenue Authority and received an excellent presentation on the proposed custom crush facility planned in Poolesville Maryland. As a board we were impressed with the opportunities this facility may bring to the Upcounty for both commercial and educational communities.

**UCAB recommends that the Office of the County Executive, the County Council and all public agencies, continue to support the custom crush wine facility and all of its associated services which will help to promote diverse agricultural uses and services within the Agricultural Reserve.** We believe this facility can be just the catalyst needed to help enhance the Agricultural Reserve.

We hope that you support this recommendation. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty.

Sincerely,

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair

cc: Nancy Navarro, County Council



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich:

Earlier this month, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) met with representatives from the Thriving Germantown (TG) Initiative. Board members asked questions about how they could support all that is happening with TG and the future nonprofit center. We appreciate the support you and the County Council have shown for this effort.

UCAB members hope that TG, and other work funded by the County government, will have access to the most up-to-date, and complete, data available. **Towards this end, UCAB recommends that the Office of the County Executive, the County Council and all public agencies collect data during the application process from organizations receiving grants for the zip codes of the populations they serve.** Knowing exactly where government money is being spent – with data reflecting the service areas, and not just the organization's headquarters or offices – would help policymakers and community leaders make better informed decisions. With the current effort to reform the county's grant making processes, UCAB believes that gathering this critical information will benefit all parties involved.

We hope that you support this recommendation. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty.

Sincerely,

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair

cc: Nancy Navarro, County Council





## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich:

On November 26, 2018, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) discussed a request from the North Potomac Citizens Association to the Department of Transportation for a sidewalk along Jones Lane near Jones Lane Elementary School which would fill the gap that currently exists between two existing sections of sidewalk along the road. The board discussed the merits of the request and voted unanimously to support the sidewalk request.

**UCAB recommends that the Office of the County Executive and the County Council support the request of the North Potomac Citizens Association to install a sidewalk along Jones Lane near Jones Lane Elementary School in order to complete the sidewalk system along that roadway.** The completion of this sidewalk system will help provide a safe pedestrian environment, especially for children walking to the Jones Lane Elementary School.

We hope that you support this recommendation. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty.

Sincerely,

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair

cc: Nancy Navarro, County Council



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich:

On November 26, 2018, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board (UCAB) heard the concerns of Germantown resident and parent Rebecca Walker on the delay of the scheduled improvements to the McNair Elementary School. As a board, we understood Ms. Walker's concerns related to delaying the anticipated improvements and its impacts to the already overcrowded school, but we also understand the school system makes decisions based on the needs of the school system as a whole. That said, the Board felt the need to express concerns that schools in the Upcounty receive the services and improvements they need in a timely basis.

**UCAB recommends that the Office of the County Executive and the County Council support the appropriate and timely funding of infrastructure needs of the Montgomery County Public Schools in the Upcounty region and keep them on their current construction schedules.**

We hope that you support this recommendation. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty.

Sincerely,

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair

cc: Nancy Navarro, County Council



## UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street  
Rockville, MD 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich:

On April 8, 2019, the Land Use committee of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board heard from Mr. Tim Cupples, Chief Engineer at MCDOT, and Ms. Erica Rigby Deputy Engineer at SHA District 3. Our guests discussed the many road projects planned or underway in the Upcounty.

While many issues were discussed that impact the timing of the varied road improvements (schedules, timing, financing and weather to name a few) one variable struck the board as unnecessary, and that was having to wait for utility companies to move their infrastructure out of the way of proposed improvements. Some of the projects in the Upcounty have experienced delays due to telecommunications companies like Verizon and Comcast not moving their infrastructure from the old poles to the new poles in a timely manner. It was the consensus of the Land Use Committee members that of all the variables that could impact road improvements, delays resulting from utility companies not moving their infrastructure could be avoided.

**The Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board requests the Montgomery County Executive and the County Council write a letter to the utility companies asking them to relocate their infrastructure in a timely manner to support the road improvements intended for the betterment of all the citizens.** This recommendation will help to ensure that road improvements stay on schedule to benefit the health, safety and welfare of the citizens.

We hope that you support this recommendation. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty.

Sincerely,

Kraig Walsleben  
UCAB Chairman



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

April 15, 2019

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
Montgomery County Executive  
101 Monroe Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Dear Mr. Elrich:

On March 18, 2019, the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board's (UCAB) Land Use Committee received a presentation from the Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) regarding transit services in the Upcounty. We had a very productive discussion about transit issues in our community and MCDOT staff shared some of the county's priorities. As a result there are a number of topics we would like to bring to your attention.

We were excited to learn about the upcoming micro-transit pilot program, the Flex, to add greater connectivity between neighborhoods and nearby transit hubs. We were however deeply disappointed that no locations in our region were selected for testing of this innovative idea designed to both better connect communities to transit hubs and remove the necessity for a car during the first leg of a commuter's journey. It is our belief that the Shady Grove Metro station, and the neighborhoods surrounding it, should be prime locations for testing such innovative ideas and we would encourage you to direct MCDOT to prioritize this major transit hub that serves so many in the Upcounty.

We were also grateful to learn about the success of Ride-On Extra. With more than 2,000 daily riders between the Lakeforest Transit Center and Medical Center, 30% of which are new riders, we believe that Ride-On Extra is the quintessential service to demonstrate the hunger for improved transit solutions in the Upcounty. We are convinced that the positive ridership data necessitates expansion to meet transit demand in communities further north on MD Route 355. As you and the Council navigate the FY2020 budget process, we would strongly encourage your administration to begin plans to expand Ride-On Extra to the Germantown Transit Center. We're confident that this express service can greatly improve the transportation needs of those north of Lakeforest.

Additionally, we know that the transit challenges of our area aren't confined to Montgomery County. Our board has been thoroughly interested in pursuing a regional transportation approach - noting that the flow of traffic through the Upcounty also comes from Frederick and points north. In years past, the Route 75 bus traveled through Montgomery County and terminated in Frederick. This bus line allowed drivers from

The Honorable Marc Elrich  
April 15, 2019  
Page 2 of 2

Frederick to utilize the Frederick Park & Ride along I -270 and get more cars off of the road. We ask that your administration investigate the efficacy of recreating this bus route and restart conversations with Frederick County.

We hope that you support these recommendations that have been developed after careful discussion and consideration by our board in our efforts to represent our neighbors on the UCAB. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve the residents of Upcounty. Please let us know if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kraig Walsleben', written in a cursive style.

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair



## **UPCOUNTY CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD**

### **Upcounty Priorities for CIP FY21-26**

*Submitted to the Office of Management and Budget  
May 24, 2019*

#### **Transportation**

- Accelerate or maintain schedule of BRT-355 North project
- Add Ride On eXtra service from Lakeforest Mall to Germantown
- Provide covered bus stops, especially as the number of stops expands
- Continue to fund Transportation Management Districts to promote all travel options available in their respective geographic areas
- Maintain the current schedule for the Observation Drive Extended project
- Restore Mid-County Highway (M-83) to the CIP

#### **Housing**

- Keep infrastructure scheduled in a timely manner to support residential construction going in place and that is planned
- Establish more affordable housing for both rent and purchase so that residents have more options.
- Monitor how Airbnb's are adhering to HOA regulations
- Continue to explore creative and affordable housing options

#### **Agricultural Reserve**

- Support the Reserve and agriculture preservation programs in order to sustain farming endeavors Support agritourism activities for educational and recreational purposes while protecting the land

#### **Services**

- Accelerate or maintain the current CIP schedule for Poolesville High School which has been recognized by *US News and World Report* as a top school in Maryland, meeting Gold Standard qualifications. The school facility should reflect the same level of excellence and be designed and constructed to allow flexibility in desired programming, including the potential for co-locating services of some type in the future.

On behalf of the Upcounty Citizens Advisory Board's Executive Committee,

Kraig Walsleben  
Chair



*Sidney Kramer Upcounty  
Regional Services Center*

## *Upcounty Regional Services Boundary Map*



Proudly serving approximately 300,000 residents of Barnesville, Beallsville, Boyds, Clarksburg, Damascus, Darnestown, Derwood, Dickerson, Gaithersburg, Germantown, Goshen, Laytonsville, Montgomery Village, North Potomac, Poolesville, Tobytown and Washington Grove.

## **The Upcounty Regional Services Center**

The Sidney Kramer Upcounty Regional Services Center (URSC) is a 100,000 square foot facility that, in 2016-2017, housed 9 county agencies and 7 community partner agencies who together offered 34 different services. The Center is located at 12900 Middlebrook Road in Germantown, Maryland and provides a county presence for the northern region of Montgomery County where a third of the county's population or more than 280,000 people reside. The service area encompasses approximately 200 square miles and is bordered on the north by Frederick County, on the east by the Olney area, on the south by the Shady Grove Metro area and Rockville, and on the west by the Potomac River.

### **Upcounty Regional Office**

The Center is anchored by the Upcounty Regional Office that functions as a link to the County Executive's Office; coordinates policy making and service delivery that focus on the particular needs of the Upcounty area; offers effective and timely problem-solving assistance to neighborhoods, individuals, community organizations, businesses, and agencies; and coordinates service delivery and assistance to the agencies housed in the Center. More specifically, the office offers an effective, timely liaison between Montgomery County and its citizens and businesses, and works with individuals, community groups, regional citizens advisory boards, and other public agencies to:

- research and disseminate information;
- identify and assess regional problems and issues and facilitate solutions;
- bring community perspective to major policy issues;
- assist with site evaluations for public facilities;
- promote a sense of community; and
- provide general on-site supervision of the center and build collaboration among partner agencies.

Major services provided to the public by the Upcounty Regional Office this year included:

- providing information and making referrals for county and other governmental entities about local programs, activities, and community issues;
- assisting individuals, groups, and neighborhoods in developing solutions to local problems;
- assisting new non-profits as they get established and build capacity to provide services;
- leveraging funds/resources for community-based initiatives (i.e. transit station safety);
- providing a county government presence and serving as the public's regional access point for communicating with county government;
- serving as one regional repository and the public's point-of-access for government and regional planning documents (master plans, sector plans, county budgets, Capital Improvements Program, maps, Mid-County Corridor Study, etc.);
- providing education and strategic-planning assistance to groups, neighborhoods and communities for local issues; and
- disseminating center and community information and special announcements through the center's webpage, mailing lists, e-newsletter and web-based events calendar.

In a broader effort to bridge the gap between citizen needs and county public services, the Upcounty Regional Director regularly looks for opportunities to bring relevant services from a variety of other agencies and organizations to the Center.

## **Other Center Agencies & Services in 2018-2019:**

### **Conflict Resolution Center of Montgomery County**

**301-652-0717**

Provides dispute prevention, resolution and education to individuals and community organizations. Call to schedule an appointment or visit [www.crcmc.org](http://www.crcmc.org)

### **Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center**

**240-777-6950**

This welcome center for new residents offers information and referral services, County programs and services provided by the County government as well as community organizations and non-profits. At the Upcounty Regional Services Center, the Gilchrist Center offers English as a second language (ESOL), citizenship preparation classes and pro bono legal services. Call for more information regarding other upcoming programs or visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/gilchrist)

### **Office of Community Partnerships - Faith Community Liaison**

**240-777-2503**

The County's Liaison to faith communities offers information and problem-solving assistance primarily to places of worship in order to encourage inclusiveness and engagement in county government initiatives and processes and other civic activities. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cec)

### **Housing Initiative Partnership (HIP)**

**301-916-5946**

As a contract partner to the County's Department of Housing and Community Affairs, HIP provides foreclosure intervention counseling for Montgomery County homeowners. Bi-monthly foreclosure prevention workshops are provided followed by a one-on-one appointment with a certified housing counselor to discuss options available for families to remain in their homes or transition into other sustainable housing arrangements. Services for first-time homebuyers are also available. Bilingual counseling services are available. [www.hiphomes.org](http://www.hiphomes.org)

### **WorkSource Montgomery**

**240-406-5485**

#### **(workforce development services)**

WorkSource Montgomery provides workforce solutions to local businesses and strengthens local job seekers' skills so that all of Montgomery County can compete in the global economy. Its "One-Stop Career Center" provides an array of services to job seekers and employers. <http://worksourcemontergomy.com>

### **Peppertree Children's Center**

**301-540-1170**

Montgomery County, as part of a commitment to families and children, provides space in many public buildings for community child care. Peppertree Children's Center is a contractor to the Department of Health & Human Services and offers full-time and part-time care for children ages 6 weeks through 12 years. Morning preschool is also offered. NAEYC accredited. [www.peppertreechildrenscenters.com](http://www.peppertreechildrenscenters.com)

### **Department of Health and Human Services**

[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/hhs)

#### ***Housing Stabilization Services/Emergency Services***

**240-777-4448**

- Rental assistance
- Eviction prevention
- Foreclosure avoidance
- Court ordered evictions
- Past due or disconnected utilities
- Burial assistance
- Information and referral for food and prescriptions
- Homeless assessment services for families with children

**Income Support Programs****240-777-3420**

- Temporary Cash Assistance for families
- Food Stamp Program
- Transitional Emergency, Medical and Housing Assistance (TEMHA) for residents who are totally disabled and cannot work
- Medical Assistance

**Public Health****240-777-3380**

- Maternal and Child case management and home visitation
- “Access” nurse service, including assisting clients with Health Choice access as well as enrolling women into the County maternity program and acting as a health resource to walk-in clients
- Children’s immunization clinics
- Pregnancy tests, information and referral

**Service Eligibility Unit (SEU)****240-777-3591**

- Helps find health coverage for uninsured Montgomery County residents through: Maryland Children’s
- Health Program, Prenatal Care, Care for Kids, Dental
- Provides information and phone numbers for food, shelter, and clothing needs  
(Financial eligibility required)

**Dental Program****240-777-3290**

- General dental services to children 0-17 years
- General dental services to maternity clients enrolled in the HHS maternity program
- Emergency service limited to preliminary evaluation and provided to children and seniors who are established clients.

**Child Welfare****240-777-1742**

Continuing protective service, foster care service, case management, and home visitation; assist with family reunification. Aftercare services, in-home monitoring of children returned to families.

**Affordable Healthcare Enrollment****240-773-8250**

Residents are assisted with enrolling in affordable health plans.

**Street Outreach Network-Upcounty Field Office****240-777-1264**

The Street Outreach Network staff prevent, neutralize, and control hostile behavior in high risk youth and youth gangs by developing positive relationships between youth/community stakeholders and the outreach workers. The outreach worker uses positive youth development programs and leisure time activities as the intervening vehicle for redirecting antisocial and aggressive behaviors.

**Sheppard Pratt Health System/Family Service Agency Inc.****301-972-0307**

Serves youth and families from five school cluster communities in Clarksburg, Germantown, Damascus, Gaithersburg, and Poolesville. Services include individual and family counseling, psycho-educational/skills groups, information and referral, crisis intervention, community outreach/education, and tutoring. <http://www.fs-inc.org/>

**Community Use of Public Facilities (CUPF)****240-777-2746**

This regional CUPF office offers scheduling of meeting rooms at the Upcounty Regional Services Center, school facilities, library meeting rooms, Executive Office Building space, Council Office Building space, and school fields for community use in the Upcounty area. Visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/cupf)

**Volunteer Center****240-777-2600**

Individuals, groups, and businesses can register for volunteer opportunities and offer their skills and talents. Student Service Learning (SSL) students can find projects and get credits to fulfill their graduation requirements. Visit [www.montgomeryserves.org](http://www.montgomeryserves.org).

**Office of Human Resources****240-777-5116**

The Center serves as the main training site for the County's Office of Human Resources where county employees are offered workshops, seminars and other training activities as scheduled. [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/ohr)

**Montgomery County Public Schools****Office of Organizational Development****301-601-0300**[www.montgomeryschools.org](http://www.montgomeryschools.org)

The mission of the Office is the organizational development of a leading, self-renewing organization focused on achieving the school system goals by strengthening the knowledge, skills, beliefs, and practices of Montgomery County Public School's staff and stakeholders.

**Transportation Services****301-840-8130**

This office coordinates and administers transportation services for Montgomery County Public Schools.

**Maryland Leadership Workshops****301-444-8623**

Staff work with individual students and small groups at the middle school and high school levels to develop leadership skills during a summer camp experience. The program is in partnership with the Maryland State Department of Education, Maryland Association of Student Councils, and Leadership Maryland.

**Business Connect****240-777-2012**

*Business Connect* is a business assistance hub where small business owners can get information, support and training to start or grow their companies. Assistance is available by appointment.

*Prepared by the Upcounty Regional Office  
May 2019*